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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: HAITI, CHINA-GOOGLE, TURKEY-ISRAEL, U.S.,
IRAN;BERLIN

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- [1](#)1. Lead Stories Summary

ZDF-TV's and ARD-TV's primetime newscasts and many newspapers led with stories on the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Die Welt and Handelsblatt led with Chancellor Merkel's commitment to cut taxes in

[1](#)2011. FT Deutschland headlined "U.S. and China in online war," highlighting that Google is considering pulling out of China after Chinese hackers attacked the company. Editorials focused on Google's situation in China and last year's recession.

- [1](#)2. (Haiti) Earthquake

Front-page headlines: "Horrific Earthquake in Haiti" (mass-tabloid Bild), "Earthquake devastates Haiti-tens of thousands killed" (Frankfurter Allgemeine), "Haiti lies in ruins" (Tageszeitung), "Catastrophe hits Haiti" Frankfurter Rundschau, "Three million people need quick emergency assistance" (Die Welt), "Haiti's government fears tens of thousands dead" (Berliner Zeitung).

All media (1/14) carried lengthy reports on the devastating earthquake in Haiti, highlighting the extent of the natural disaster and the prominent role the U.S. is playing in efforts to help the country.

ZDF-TV's Heute (1/13) newscast reported that the U.S. sent aircraft

carrier USS Carl Vinson to Haiti, which is "particularly needed" because "it has helicopters that can be used for emergency flights.

Planes can also land on the aircraft carrier, which is particularly important because the tower of the airport in Port-au-Prince has been damaged by the earthquake, reducing the number of aid flights that can come in." The newscast also noted that "Secretary Clinton compared the catastrophe with the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia." Frankfurter Allgemeine mentioned in its front-page report that "American President Obama promised Haiti quick assistance. The U.S. navy will send its hospital ship USS Comfort to Port-au-Prince."

In a front-page editorial, Die Welt (1/14) remarked: "Barack Obama spoke of a heartbreaking tragedy and promised quick, coordinated and determined aid efforts. During his inauguration, the first African-American at the White House expressed sympathy for the world's oldest independent black republic founded 206 years ago. Demands from Haitians to grant fellow citizens who work illegally in the country a

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more secure status were not met... In economically difficult times, American society is not ready for these things. Whether the Haitian tragedy might change this attitude remains questionable. It is obvious that more generous immigration, financial payments and hosts of UN aid workers cannot resolve the fundamental problems of the country. Comprehensive humanitarian assistance is now urgently necessary. Not just the U.S. is morally obliged to help, but the whole American continent and the international community. However, one day in the future, Haitians themselves must bear responsibility, and not just call for it."

Under the headline "Collapse of a failed state," Handelsblatt (1/14) editorialized: "The earthquake in Haiti brought the forgotten country back onto the political agenda. The international community slowly sneaked out of the crisis country. The problems appeared to be too complicated and intertwined. Development workers in Haiti have been warning for years that only massive assistance and international presence could rescue the country from collapsing."

Regional Badische Zeitung (1/14) opined: "Crime rates and corruption are enormous. It is country of mismanagement and human rights violations, of political instability and environmental destruction. In addition, natural catastrophes occur particularly often in the Caribbean. It is a classic vicious circle. For all these reasons, the international community must help Haiti."

Regional Sdkurier (1/14) remarked: "Haiti is short of everything: food, medicine, machines, and doctors. It is important that the international community does not debate responsibilities but takes action. Every day, every hour can decide about life and death for the

people who still lie under the rubble. In the long run, it will take more than this emergency aid to get the country out of its misery.

The hopes of the first presidential elections twenty years ago were dashed long ago. Old clans and favoritism are ruling Haiti again today. Those who want to help the people must not accept this."

13. (China-Google) Dispute

All papers (1/14) carried reports and editorials on the dispute between Google and China. Sddeutsche headlined: "Google Challenging China," and reported: "The company protests against hacker attack on human rights activists and threatens to switch off search engine. Following a series of spy attacks, the U.S. technology company Google is now seeking a confrontation with China. The company's management reported on Tuesday evening that it no longer wants to accept the censorship of the Internet that the rulers in Beijing imposed on it.

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With this move, Google is risking being thrown out of China. The hacker attacks could develop into another burden on the already tense relations between the U.S. and China." Frankfurter Allgemeine headlined: "Google Defies China's Censorship," while Tagesspiegel reported under the headline: "Announced Withdrawal," that Google no longer wants to give into censorship in China and is threatening to withdraw from the fastest growing online market in the world." Die Welt headlined: "China Is displacing Google," and wrote that "search engine company Google has threatened to withdraw from China. The company is thus reacting to ongoing hacker attacks on its computers.

Google now wants to enter into talks with Chinese authorities and prompt it to give up censorship but observers consider the chances to succeed to be small."

Under the headline: "Google's Foreign Policy," Sueddeutsche Zeitung (1/14) judged: "the U.S. government is actively supporting Google in the confrontation with China. But what will be the future course of the political power of the company? Will Google turn into an indicator of freedom and prosperity such as Coca Cola and McDonald's? Or will it turn into a sinister global player such as the United Fruit Company, for which the CIA launched coups in Central American states?"

Frankfurter Allgemeine (1/14) had this to say: "Now it is necessary to remain consistent. The U.S. government called for a clear statement from China. This can, if it ever comes, be categorized under the headline 'China is acting like a prima donna.' However, the answer to the question of how Google implements its announcement will be really exciting. Will Google really withstand the demands for censorship from Chinese authorities? Or did it only use the attacks to improve its battered image in the world in a publicly effective way? Even if Google implements everything it said, a negative result could be

possible for the company. The Internet community could learn from China how life without Google functions."

According to Handelsblatt (1/14), "There is primarily one reason behind Google's threat to leave China: As a collector and storer of partly highly sensitive data, Google cannot afford to be spied on by a country which wants to influence the next generation of Internet standards. Beijing follows a strategy which is to prove that an authoritarian regime can survive despite the Internet. But the Chinese lack the expertise. That is why China is trying to get access to the source code. At second glance, Google's move is not as courageous as it seems. With a share of 30 percent in the market for search engines and a minute share of income for advertisements in China, the company does not take an economic risk by withdrawing

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from the country. But it sends a spectacular signal."

Regional daily Stuttgarter Zeitung (1/14) argued that "if the Californian company has made its step out of commercial acumen, it would be desirable to find a few imitators. Google's withdrawal from China will not change the censorship methods in the country. Google does not need China, but China does not need Google either."

Regional daily Leipziger Volkszeitung (1/14) editorialized: "This case comes at the right time for Google. By threatening to end the self-censorship, Google can present itself as a martyr of freedom of opinion. This clever marketing strategy, according to the motto: 'the powerful is supporting the weak,' is succeeding because Google was internationally showered with praise on Wednesday. But as a matter of fact, Google is more interested in the struggle against its own bad image than in the fight against censorship."

Neue Frankfurter Presse (1/14) wonders "what is really behind the demand of the U.S. company? Demands to put it into the same category as the Chinese search engine Baidu? The Chinese search engine - which is the number one on the Chinese market - blithely lists links to copyright protected music, videos or pirate software. Google has banned this. As long as Baidu is so strong, Google's business model will not work."

14. (Turkey-Israel) Strained Relations

Berliner Zeitung (1/14) headlined: "Israel Apologizes to Turkish Ambassador," while Frankfurter Allgemeine (1/14) reported under the headline: "Ajalon Apologizes for Affront," and wrote that "a relaxation has occurred in the diplomatic controversy between Turkey and Israel. In an interview with a Turkish TV station, Ankara's ambassador to Israel said Wednesday night that Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ajalon had apologized to him and asked him to convey his apology also 'to the Turkish people.' The ambassador added that he would not return to Turkey...."

Under the headline: "Turkey sets Ultimatum to Israel," Die Welt (1/14) reported that "the government in Ankara is threatening to break off

diplomatic relations. With its ultimatum to Israel, Turkey has escalated the conflict between the two countries. However, it remained unclear whether the break of diplomatic relations was only a threat or whether the Turkish ambassador should only return home for a brief period of time. This conflict has been going on for a year and it was Erdogan who provoked it during a discussion at the Economic Forum in Davos. Before that Israel was considered a 'strategic partner.'

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Many people are wondering why the government in Ankara made such a radical turnabout in relations with Israel. And in the meantime it seems to be clear that the real reason is based on strategic and foreign policy reasons. In view of declining chances to be accepted in the EU, Turkey is now trying to become the leader of the Muslim world. Among the new allies are Iran, Syria, and Sudan...and Ankara is also sympathizing with Hamas. But in order to cultivate such new friendships, Ankara must be unyielding towards Israel."

Frankfurter Allgemeine (1/14) carried an editorial under the headline: 'Deteriorated.'" and wrote: "Israel should have known it: the Turks are a proud people. Diplomatic carelessness towards the Turkish ambassador, which overall rather looked like deliberate disrespect, has escalated into a state affair. Ankara is not satisfied with the apology of Israel's deputy foreign minister. In return, Israel feels slandered by a Turkish TV series. This clash is further evidence of a constant deterioration of relations since the Gaza War. The Gaza War has had a diplomatically devastating effect because Turkey and Israel enjoyed close relations for a long time before."

15. (U.S.) Bankers in The Hot Seat

A few papers dealt with the hearing of the CEOs of the biggest U.S. banks. Frankfurter Allgemeine (1/14) carried a factual news report under the headline: "In America, the Reprocessing of the Financial Crisis is Beginning."

Handelsblatt (1/14) carried a report under the headline: U.S. Bankers Admit Mistakes," and reported that "the CEOs of the largest U.S. banks show understanding [of the criticism of the banks' activities]. The financial crisis has been going on for two years but its reprocessing has only just begun. The Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC) invited the CEOs of the biggest U.S. banks to a hearing on Wednesday. The FCIC wants to bring to the fore the reasons for the financial crisis. But the bankers acted in an aggressive and self assured way when the discussion focused on bonus payments...but they also admitted mistakes and agreed that a reform of the financial system would be important. But Lord Bankfein emphasized that the [government] should not go too far.... The hearing comes at a bad time for the

government
because the Banking Committee of the Senate is talking behind closed
doors about details of the financial reforms. Political analyst
Joseph Engelhard of the Capital Alpha investment company said that
the

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Obama government and a few senators are concerned that 'new insights
could result in a public outcry which could impede possible
compromises on Capitol Hill.'"

Financial Times Deutschland (1/14) reported under the headline:
"Co-
Prosecutor in a Cross-Examination," and subtitled: "During the
public
hearing of the CEOs of the largest U.S. banks on the reasons for the
financial crisis, there has been a surprising agreement - that the
ones who must be blamed for the crisis, have not been invited." The
daily wrote: "The fact that AIG's business partners were reimbursed

for the debts of the insurance company at the expense of the
taxpayer
has angered the United States for months. But the Treasury
Department
and the Federal Reserve constantly say that they had not been able
to
implement a different solution. But Treasury Secretary Geithner and
Fed Chief Bernanke should be heard on this matter, but they are not
in
the room and the same is true for the ex-heads of AIG, Lehman Bros.,
Bear Stearns, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae

At a certain moment,
this
also struck FCIC member Hennessy: 'Why are only those people here
who
survived everything?' Hennessy was economic advisor for George W.
Bush. And he is not here either."

16. (Iran) Aftermath of Assassination of Scientist

In the view of Sddeutsche Zeitung (1/14), "conspiracy theorists are
having their great moment right now. This attack on an Iranian
scientist allows them to blame Americans, Israelis, the militant
part
of the Iranian opposition, or even the mullah regime for the attack.

For the time being, it will remain a mystery who detonated the bike
bomb in Tehran. The only thing that exists is clues and
interests...and even the peaceful opposition is not beyond doubt.
It
can blame the hated regime for the murder without having evidence of

it. This attack shows how difficult it is to look through the
muddled
conflict of interests in Iran. Outsiders, be it western
governments,
intelligence services, the media, and experts involuntarily proved
with their contradictory assessment of the nuclear program and
domestic developments that they can only put together small parts of
the current Iranian puzzle. Because so many interests are involved,
we cannot expect reasonable or understandable behavior. This means
that the development is threatening to get out of control. The
killing of the Tehran professor is a sign of this."

MURPHY